

25X1

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REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 3 Dec. 1953

SUBJECT 1. Border Guards Training
Procedure, Flare Signal System, and
Schools

NO. OF PAGES 13

25X1

PLACE ACQUIRED 2. Currency Reform

NO. OF ENCLS. 5
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

DATE OF INFO

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Garrison Training

- a. The 6th PS Co. received a training schedule from the 2nd PS Bn. Hq. It was divided into two phases, winter and summer. The schedule arrived at the unit through the chain of command, which started at the Ministry of National Defense, went via the Ministry of National Security, through PS Brigade and battalion to the company. This training consisted of field stripping of weapons, target practice, small unit training, political indoctrination, and gas mask drill.

In the case of the 6th PS Co., this training was never carried out because of guard duty in which every man participated. Each man had to walk his post for eight hours daily, seven days per week, plus additional hours in the event of any national holiday, or on occasions of national significance such as BERIA's dismissal from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD-Ministerstvo Vnutrennikh Del) or the currency exchange. On these occasions the individual guards had to walk 10 to 12 hours daily, since there was danger that some of the people planning to escape from Czechoslovakia would use this time to carry out their plans.

25X1

The 6th PS Co. had a six kilometer radius to patrol and guard. In this area there were 15 to 20 night posts and three to six day posts.

25X1

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

ARMY review completed.

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

25X1

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The 6th PS Co. had about 15 walking posts in a six kilometer area, with about a 150 to 300 m. area for each patrol team to guard. During the daylight hours the border was under surveillance of a patrol consisting of two horse-mounted PS guards and guards posted in two wooden towers, about 10 m. high. [For locations of these two towers, see Encl. A.] The towers were equipped with a LMG, a telephone, and a pair of field glasses. Two PS men were on duty in each of these towers. There were four field telephones installed throughout the entire sector of the 6th PS Co. Two of these were in the observation towers, one at the company orderly room, and the fourth one in the office of the CO.

The guards posted in the towers had to call the company whenever something out of the ordinary took place within the border area. For example: whenever an airplane flew over the border, this fact had to be immediately reported, including the time of occurrence, direction of flight, approximate altitude and type of plane. PS men received 10 hours of airplane recognition instruction during their basic training, and each week for about two hours, refresher lectures on this subject were given. Other subjects of telephone reports were the appearance of foreign border guards, troops, vehicles, or personnel. These phone calls were received by the NCO on duty at the company headquarters, who in turn relayed them to battalion headquarters. If a guard caught an illegal border crosser, he received a promotion, three day pass or even a furlough home.

In the 6th PS Co. sector, there were two World War II concrete bunkers [see Encl. A/]. These bunkers were repaired in the spring of 1953 by an u/1 group of Army soldiers who, upon completion of repairs, locked up the bunkers. The tops of these bunkers were about one and one-half meters above the ground and had openings for three HMG's. The bunkers were camouflaged.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

25X1

The guards were not required to be continually on the move; they were permitted to sit down in an obscure place, such as bushes or high grass, as long as they kept constant watch on the border. For description of the border fence in the 6th PS Co. area, see Encl. B. As an additional aid in the performance of their guard duty, PS men installed three trip wire flares within the area of their patrol. This aided them in keeping better surveillance of the border area. For details on trip wire flares, see Encl. C.

In the winter months, when snow covered the ground, guards wore hoods, coats, and trousers of white cotton over the regular uniform.

- (4) the daily routine 25X1

In the 6th PS Co.:

8 hours	Guard duty
8 hours	Sleep
3 hours	Training (usually omitted - men rested)
2 hours	Group discussion, conducted by political NCO and the CO
1 hour	Meals
1 hour	Preparation for guard duty
1 hour	Free time. During this hour general house-keeping details were performed, such as weeding the border fence area, cleaning the windows of the barracks, cutting the grass, painting, etc.

- (5) In order to test availability of each PS guard in the event of urgent need, such as detection of an illegal border crosser or an invasion of Czechoslovakia by enemy forces, two types of alerts were practiced: practice alert (pohotovost) and combat alert. There was no prescribed time for the practice alert; that was left to the CO's discretion. In the 6th PS Co. the practice alert occurred about once a month, or whenever an inspecting officer from higher headquarters ordered such a practice. There was no special prearranged signal for the practice alert. The NCO on duty at the orderly room passed through the barracks, calling out "poplach" (alarm). Upon hearing this the guards fell out in front of their barracks, with their weapons and the prescribed number of rounds of ammunition, grenades and flares. Gas masks were not carried. Roll call was taken, and weapons, ammunition, grenades and flares were checked. Men failing to comply with the regulations were reprimanded. After the check, the formation was dismissed. There was no prescribed time limit for the practice alert.
- (6) The combat alert was initiated and ended by battalion headquarters by telephone. In the event of a combat alert, the entire company fell out and manned the border posts, until relieved. On these occasions additional men from battalion headquarters, usually men from the engineer and transportation platoons, helped out with guard duty. These men brought weapons and ammunition with them from their respective units. The combat alerts occurred on occasions of special national significance such as May Day, currency reform, BERIA's dismissal, and the death of President

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

25X1

GOTTWALD. It was anticipated by higher headquarters that these occasions would be utilized by some dissatisfied people for crossing the border.

- (7) The 6th PS Co. used the following flare signal system, which was rather flexible, since the combination of colors changed from time to time.

- 1 White - Used to light up the area.
- 1 Red and 1 Green - Signal of illegal border crossing from Czechoslovakia to Austria.
- 2 Red flares - Signal of illegal border crossing from Austria to Czechoslovakia. Two red flares were an alarm signal for the 6th PS Co. At this time, the entire unit fell out with their weapons and were double-timed to the place of crossing.
- 2 Green - Request for an escort. On many occasions civilians on foot or in vehicles, despite the warning signs, entered the restricted area. Such persons were taken into custody of border guards, who dispatched them to battalion headquarters where they were questioned and fined.

2. Specialized Training

[redacted] a four-week course on the "Pancerovka", a Czech AT weapon, at the battalion headquarters in Stupava /N 48-19, E 17-027.

25X1

[redacted] the Pancerovky which were to be assigned to the 6th PS Co. were to be kept in storage and used only in case of invasion of Czechoslovakia by enemy forces.

3. Field Training

The 6th PS Co. did not participate in any field training [redacted] due to guard duty in which the company was engaged.

25X1

4.

5. Schools

The following were the subjects and number of hours of training given [redacted] at the PS Academy in Prague [redacted]

25X1

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours per Month</u>
Tactics (preparation for attack, defense, etc.)	25
PS duties	25

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-6-

25X1

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Hours per Month</u>
Signal training	10
Chemical training	15
Political training	16
Map reading	16
Physical training	8
Preparations in firing of arms	20
Administration training	8
Rear services	15
Medical	8
Regulations (AR's and SR's)	12
Drilling	20

25X1

The PS Academy at Prague accepted NCO's and junior lieutenants, but upon arriving in Prague the NCO's and the officers were separated into classes depending on the amount of training received in their respective PS units. Officers who had previous training in PS units were placed into more advanced classes. The same was true in the case of NCO's. Every man in the PS had an opportunity to volunteer for training in the PS Academy in Prague. All students attending this Academy, regardless of their rank, were graduated as lieutenants in the PS. If a student graduated with honors, he had a chance to apply for admission to the Academy of Military Sciences in the USSR.

25X1

[redacted] The qualification for acceptance into the Soviet Academy, besides being an honor student in all subjects, was that the student had to be an ardent Communist.

There were approximately 360 students, divided into three companies, in the PS Academy in Prague during the nine-month course [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] There were 120 men, divided into four 30-man platoons, in each company. Only the PS personnel of Czechoslovakia were accepted into this academy. [redacted] 25X1
there were no foreign military students attending the academy. Col. (fnu) GASNER was the CO of the Academy until early 1952, when a Soviet colonel (name unknown) took over upon the dismissal of Col. GASNER. 25X1

6. Tests and Inspections

In April 1953 several high ranking officers, lieutenant colonels and majors, from the Ministry of National Security, arrived in the 6th PS Co. area to give the company a test. The test consisted of the following subjects: firing, tactics in the offense and the defense, political training, and individual knowledge on world events. The 6th PS Co. did not receive the results of this test. They took it for granted that the inspecting party was satisfied as their company training program was not accelerated. The inspecting party consisted only of Czech officers. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-7-

25X1

7. Additional Information

- a. The following were the subjects and approximate number of hours of training and instruction during basic training, taken in Hostoun N 49-34, E 12-45 25X1

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
Political education	40
Infantry tactics	100
Preparatory marksmanship training	30
Military law	50
Map reading	15
Chemical warfare	15
Close and extended order drill	50

- b. The following were the subjects covered at the PS NCO School (PDS-Poddustojnicka Skola) located in Ujezd u Svateho Krize N 49-34, E 12-45 25X1

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
Political education	150
Infantry tactics	500
Physical training	100
Preparatory marksmanship training	150
Military law	80
Map reading	70
Close and extended order drill	100
Communications	40
Chemical warfare	50
Border guard training	200
Personal hygiene	50
Engineer training	100

- c. Brod N 48-37, E 14-19 the PS Training Area. Vyssi 25X1
conducted classes on the following subjects:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
Close and extended order drill	50
Physical training	30
Infantry tactics	60
Chemical warfare	20

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-8-

25X1

- d. [] PS Training Center, located in the Old Police Presidium in Bratislava, [] conducted classes on the following subjects: 25X1
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<u>Subject</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
Tactics	60
Border Guard training	80
Chemical warfare	20
Preparatory marksmanship training	120
Engineering training	10
Map reading	8
Military law	20

- e. /Attached as Encl. D are Czech military tactical symbols, and attached as Encl. E are Czech topographical symbols [] 25X1
[] 25X1

8. Currency Reform

One week before and one week after the 1 June 1953 currency reform in Czechoslovakia, all PS units were alerted by their commanders to remain in their caserne areas just in case there were any uprisings in connection with the currency reform. [] there were some disturbances in the cities of Ostrava, Pilsen, and Kosice and [] the security forces, including PS units, were sent out to put down these disturbances. Since the currency reform, ration cards no longer were issued to the Czech population and only one type of market was in existence, namely the free market where goods were purchased directly. The following was the rate of exchange at the currency reform, 1 June 1953: for 300 old crowns a person received 60 new crowns. For any amount over 300 crowns, the rate was 50 old crowns for one new crown. [] 25X1
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Enclosures:

- A. Border Patrol Area Assigned to 6th PS Co., 2nd PS Bn., 11th PS Brig.
- B. Border Fence Used by 6th PS Co., 2nd PS Bn., 11th PS Brig.
- C. Trip Wire Flare Holder and Anti-Personnel Mines Used by the 6th PS Co., 2nd PS Bn., 11th PS Brig.
- D. Czech Military Tactical Symbols
- E. Czech Topographical Symbols

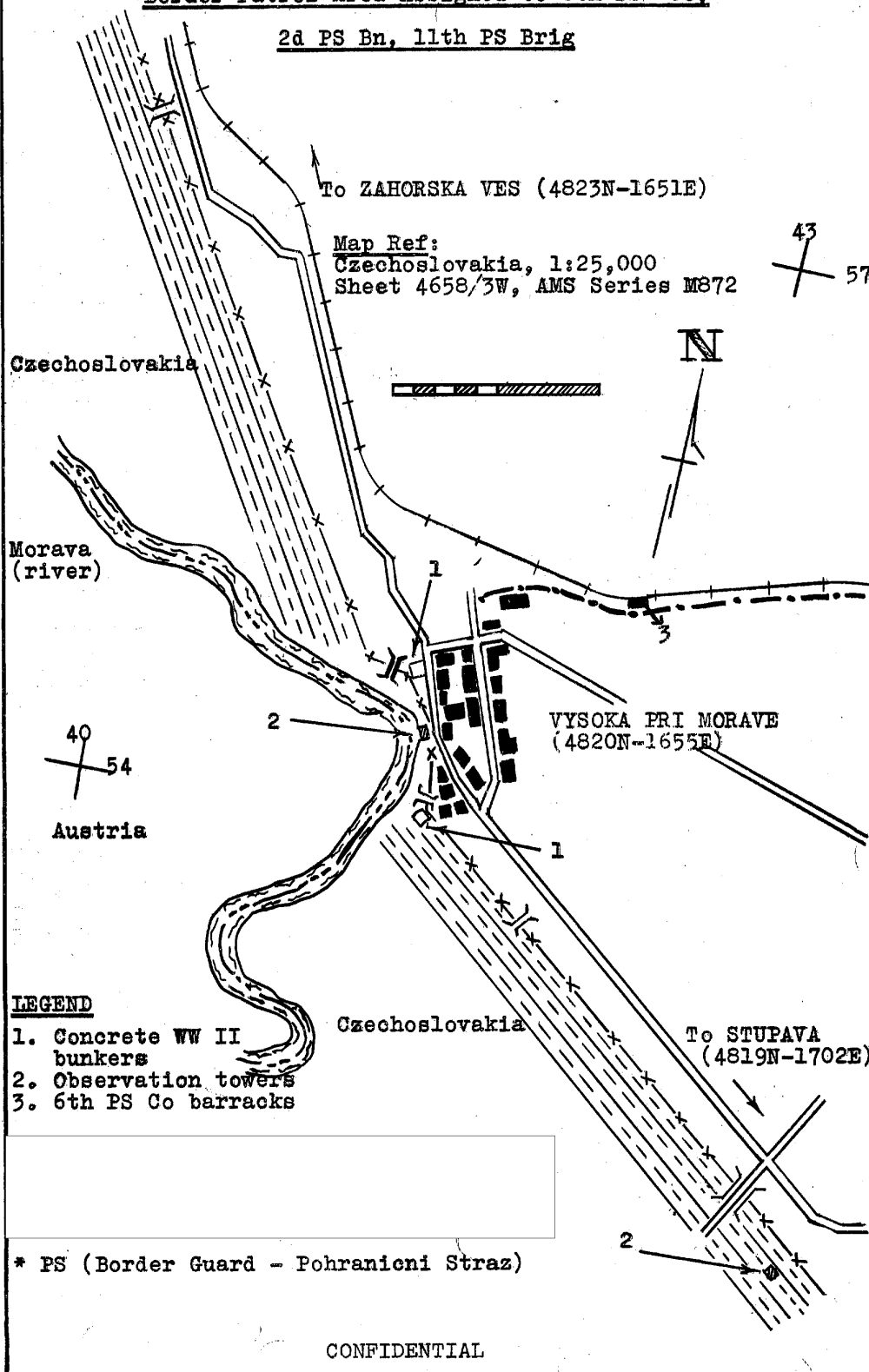
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CONFIDENTIAL

-9-

25X1

Enclosure A

Border Patrol Area Assigned to 6th PS* Co.2d PS Bn, 11th PS Brig

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25X1

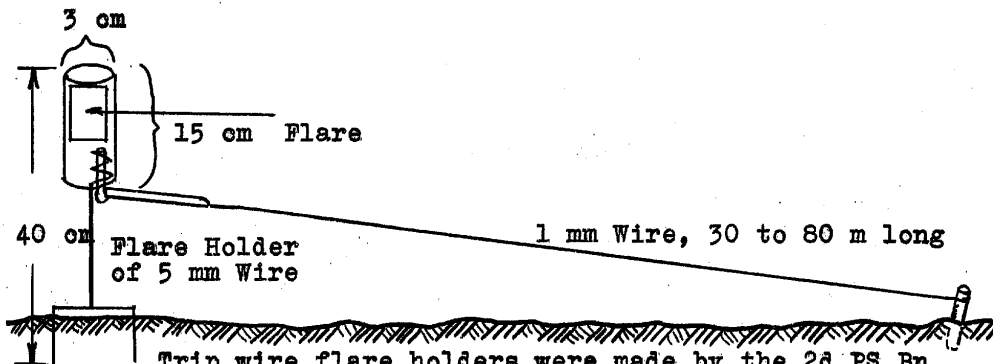
CONFIDENTIAL
-11-

25X1

Enclosure C

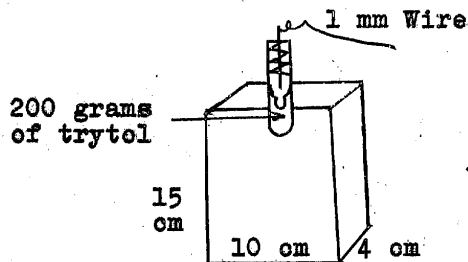
Trip Wire Flare Holder and Anti-Personnel Mines Used

by the 6th PS* Co, 2d PS Bn, 11th PS Brig



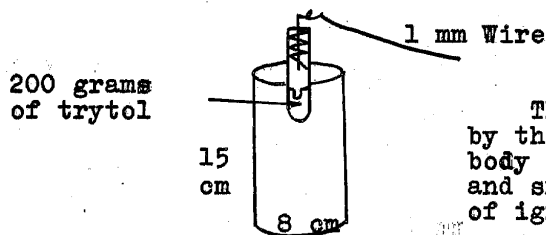
Trip wire flare holders were made by the 2d PS Bn Engineers out of five millimeter wire and a tin receptacle for the flare and the starter.

The two types of anti-personnel mines shown below were installed inside the border fence of the 6th PS Co area.



These mines were constructed by 2d PS Bn Engineers. The body of the mine was made of wood. The type of igniter (roznecovac) used was the CS vz RO 1.

Czech Anti-infantry Wooden Mine
(Ceskoslovenska Proti-pechotna
Mina Drevena, PPMD)



These mines were constructed by the 2d PS Bn Engineers. The body of the mine was made of cement and small pieces of iron. The type of igniter used was the CX vx RO 1.

Cement Mine, oval type

* PS (Border Guards - Pohranicni Straz)

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
-12-

25X1

Enclosure D
Czech Military Tactical Symbols

	Infantry squad		Horse drawn HMG
	SMG squad		Company First Aid Station (RO-Rotni Obvaziste)
	Platoon		Destroyed bridge
	Company		AT weapon (Tarasnice)
	Battalion		Mortar 82mm
	Light machine gun		Mortar 120mm
	Heavy machine gun		Stationary barrage
	Radio station		Moving barrage
	Squad in defense		Retreating tank attack
	Squad in attack		Dummy foxhole
	Light tank		Double fence (entanglement)
	Medium tank		Land mines (Fougasse)
	Heavy tank		Firing perimeter
	Cannon		Mine field

25X1

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CONFIDENTIAL
-13-

25X1

Enclosure E

Czech Topographical Symbols

	State highway		Break in the road
	County highway		Tunnel
	Well kept dirt road		Fill
	Unkept dirt road		Cut
	Trail		
	Foot trail		
	Railroad track (single)		
	Narrow-gauge RR track		Forest ranger station (HAJ-grove)
	Streetcar track		Mineral water spring
	Cable line (overhead)		
	Wooden bridge		Water well
	Steel bridge		Mine
	Stone bridge		Inn
	Christian church		Water wheel
	Christian church w/two towers		Tree
	Synagogue		Factory
	Shrine		Brick yard
	Cross		Meadow
	Church serving as highest point		Swamp
	Bench mark		Woods, w/mixed trees
	Quarry		
	Observation tower		

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